

**House Conservation, Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Committee**  
**Representative Tom Casperson, Chair**  
**May 30, 2006**

**Senator Cameron S. Brown's testimony on SB 971 (H-3)**

Representative Casperson and Committee Members:

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this substitute for SB 971. I appreciate your commitment to putting in place a new method of review of any proposal to sell our state parks and key natural areas.

As you know, we have worked the last two weeks with representatives from the DNR, the Michigan Environmental Council, key conservation-minded individuals and your staff to come up with this new version, which in many ways is quite similar to the bill as it was introduced in that we will be adding a second layer of review for the sale of any size parcel of state park land.

Under the H-3 version, the Natural Resources Commission—a body that takes public testimony on a regular basis and provides for the long term protection of the natural resources of the state—will now be integrated into the review process of any proposal to sell a state park. For both large and small parcels, under this bill, the NRC will have to approve the sale prior to the DNR moving forward with it. The key distinction remains however that once the NRC approves it, the Legislature must specifically approve the sale of the larger parcels (greater than 100 acres or 15% whichever is less) through a public act, while the legislature will simply be notified of the proposed sale for the smaller parcels at least 30 days prior to the sale.

I once again appreciate your consideration of this substitute and look forward to working with you in the future on key conservation/recreation issues.

**The process will thus be as follows:**

DNR submits a detailed proposal of the proposed sale to the Parks Advisory Committee—they study it and make a recommendation (non-binding) for both large and small parcels of state park land

DNR holds a public hearing in the vicinity if it is a large parcel sale

DNR posts a notice of the proposed sale on its website if it is a small parcel sale

DNR submits a detailed proposal to the NRC—if it is a small parcel, if NRC approves it, the DNR must notify the legislature at least 30 days prior to sale—at that point, sale can then proceed. If it is a large parcel, the legislature must specifically approve the sale through a specific bill/public act (just like it currently does with all other property conveyances)